

Message Text

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EA/J - MR. DANKERT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA, XP

SUBJECT:JAPANESE FISHERY FOR PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH OFF U.S.
COAST

1. SEVERAL JAPANESE STERN TRAWLERS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED FISHING FOR PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH OFF THE U.S. PACIFIC COAST IN AREAS WHERE JAPAN HAS MADE COMMITMENTS TO LIMIT CATCHES FOR THESE SPECIES TO VERY SMALL ANNUAL QUOTAS. THESE COMMITMENTS ARE SET FORTH IN THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES IN REGARD TO CERTAIN FISHERY PROBLEMS, WASHINGTON, NOV. 27, 1972. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT RELEASED THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIONS, BUT REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS ARE AWARE OF THE U.S. EXPECTATION THAT JAPANESE CATCHES OF PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH WILL BE LIMITED. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CALL THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF JAPANESE FISHERIES OFFICIALS DRAWING UPON THE FOLLOWING:

(A) A DIRECTED FISHERY FOR PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH BY
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JAPANESE VESSELS IN THE QUOTE VANCOUVER UNQUOTE AREA

OF THE NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN HAS BEEN NOTED BY
U.S. FISHERIES OFFICIALS. ON JUNE 30, 1974, U.S.
OFFICIALS BOARDED THE JAPANESE STERN TRAWLER

UNDERSCORE AKEBONO MARU NO. 50 END UNDERSCORE AT
POSITION 48.01 N 125.18 W. THIS VESSEL HAD ONE HUNDRED
LONG TONS OF PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH ON BOARD. TWO MORE
JAPANESE STERN TRAWLERS FISHING FOR PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH
WERE SIGHTED IN THE AREA ON THE SAME DAY, AND A FOURTH
THE FOLLOWING DAY.

(B) DURING THE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND JAPAN IN NOVEMBER 1972 AT WHICH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE DEVELOPED REGARDING CERTAIN
FISHERIES OFF THE U.S. COAST AND SALMON FISHERIES THAT
ENTERED INTO FORCE DECEMBER 20, 1972, THE REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN STATED THEIR INTENTION
TO LIMIT THE ANNUAL JAPANESE CATCH OF PACIFIC OCEAN
PERCH IN THE NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC TO 60,000 TONS AND
ALSO TO APPLY SPECIAL LIMITATIONS TO LIMIT THE JAPANESE
CATCH OF THIS SPECIES IN THE AREAS DESIGNATED IN THE
INPFC STATISTICAL REPORTING SYSTEM AS QUOTE VANCOUVER
UNQUOTE (50 DEGREES 30 MINUTES N - 47 DEGREES 30
MINUTES N) AND QUOTE COLUMBIA UNQUOTE (47 DEGREES
30 MINUTES N - 43 DEGREES 00 MINUTES N) TO NOT MORE
?HAN 800 METRIC TONS AND THE 1969 LEVEL RESPECTIVELY
IN 1973 AND 1974. (FYI THE 1969 CATCH IN THE QUOTE
COLUMBIA UNQUOTE AREA WAS INSIGNIFICANT.)

(C) IN VIEW OF THESE AGREED UPON CATCH LIMITS IN THE
DESIGNATED AREAS, AND IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF
JAPANESE VESSELS RECENTLY OBSERVED FISHING IN THE
QUOTE VANCOUVER UNQUOTE AREA, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT
THE SPECIAL CATCH LIMITS WILL BE QUICKLY REACHED.
THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS THE PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH
RESOURCE TO BE OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S.
FISHING INDUSTRY AND IS CONCERNED THAT FISHING IN THE
NORTHEAST PACIFIC BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER THAT WILL
ALLOW THIS DEPLETED RESOURCE TO RECOVER.

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(D) ACCORDINGLY, THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK
THE COOPERATION OF JAPANESE FISHERIES OFFICIALS IN
MAKING CERTAIN THAT THE MASTERS OF THE JAPANESE
VESSELS FISHING IN THE AREAS REFERRED TO ABOVE RESTRICT
THEIR FISHERIES SO AS NOT TO EXCEED THE CATCH LIMITS
FOR THE DESIGNATED AREAS. A PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH
CATCH IN EXCESS OF ANY OF THESE CATCH LIMITS WOULD
AGGRAVATE DIFFICULT CONSERVATION PROBLEMS AND STIMU-

LATE A SERIOUS ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF

JAPANESE RESPONSE AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOJ TO CONTROL
FISHERY FOR PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH. KISSINGER

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